

REMARKS

Claim 41 has amended. No claims have been added or canceled in this amendment. Hence, claims 1 – 24, 26 – 35, and 38 – 43 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 24 and 26 – 35 have been allowed.

Attached are replacement sheets. The drawings have been amended to address only items listed in the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review.

Summary of Rejections

Claims 38 – 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 38 – 40 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,907,847, herein Goldberg.

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,600,005, herein Hoover.

Claims 42 – 43 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoover in view of Goldberg.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112

Apparently, the Office Action alleges that various terms and phrases of the claims 38 – 43 render the claims indefinite.

The first term is the term "table". Claim 1 expressly recites that the table is of the type "maintained by the database server". There are various types of tables maintained by the database server. In fact, the Office Action mentions some examples, citing "relational table" and "database table" and "object-relational table". These types of tables are all species of the genus of tables maintained by database servers.

Apparently the Office Action basis for indefiniteness is that the phrase refers to a genus rather than a species of the genus. However, the fact that a phrase refers to a genus that subsumes multiple species does not by itself render the phrase indefinite for purposes of 35 USC 112.

The Office Action alleges that it is unclear what is being maintained separate from the table definition. Applicant has reviewed the pertinent claim language and can only conceive of one plausible interpretation of what is being maintained separate from the table definition, which is obviously the "metadata that indicates how to derive object ids from values stored in the table." In fact, the only interpretation of what is being maintained separately that is noted by the Office Action is that metadata.

The Office Action suggests adding the term "computer implemented" before the term "method" in the pre-amble of claims 38 and 41. Applicant is unable to determine why such an amendment is needed for purposes of 35 USC 112.

Claim 38

Claim 38, recites:

A method for deriving object ids for data in a table that is managed by a database server and is defined by a table definition, comprising:
maintaining, separate from the table definition, metadata that indicates how to derive object ids from values stored in the table; and
the database server deriving object ids for the data in the table based on the metadata.

Claim 38 has rejected based on Goldberg. Goldberg describes a system for storing, for a set of objects, class definitions and state and behavior in the same source, i.e. a single database. (Abstract, col. 6, lines 1 – 25). One table (or a relation of multiple tables) holds class definitions and behaviors for objects. (i.e. table 404, col. 6, lines 41 – 45) Another table holds data for the objects (employee table 412, col. 6, lines 53- 55)

The Office Action has rejected claim 1 based on the allegation that: (1) Goldberg discloses the step of "maintaining, separate from the table definition, metadata that indicates how to derive object ids from values stored in the table" and (2) suggests, but does not disclose, the step of "deriving object ids for the data in the table based on the metadata". There is no basis for these allegations.

Goldberg mentions absolutely nothing of object ids. Therefore, Goldberg cannot possibly disclose anything about how metadata is used to derive object ids, much less how such metadata is separately maintained as claimed.

Furthermore, there is no motivation to modify Goldberg as has been posited by the Office Action. Because Goldberg mentions absolutely nothing of object ids, or mentions nothing of a way or need for a way to identify objects, a need for generating objects ids is not a problem posed by or raised by Goldberg nor a motivation to one skilled in the art to modify Goldberg to derive object ids from values based on tables based on metadata.

Based on the foregoing, claim 38 is patentable.

Claim 41

Claim 41, as amended, recites:

in response to executing a query that references an object view as if the object view were a table, performing the steps of:

reading data from one or more rows of the set of one or more tables indicated by metadata that defines said object view, the object view defining a presentation of data as a set of objects that reside in said database, the set of one or more tables including at least one relational table...

Claim 41, as amended, requires reading data from a table indicated by metadata that defines an object view, the object view defining a presentation of data as a set of objects that

reside in said database, where the step of reading is performed in response to executing a query that references the object view as if the object view were a table. An example of such a query is found on the application on page 18, as follows.

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Select REF(OV_FEMPLOYEE) From OV_FEMPLOYEE;
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Applicant has reviewed Hoover and Goldberg and has not found any disclosure or suggestion of performing such a step in response to executing a query. Therefore, claim 41 as amended is patentable.

Unallowed Pending Claims

The unallowed pending claims not discussed so far are dependant claims that depend on an independent claim that is discussed above. Because each of the dependant claims include the limitations of claims upon which they depend, the dependant claims are patentable for at least those reasons the claims upon which the dependant claims depend are patentable. Removal of the rejections with respect to the dependant claims and allowance of the dependant claims is respectfully requested. In addition, the dependent claims introduce additional limitations that independently render them patentable. Due to the fundamental difference already identified, a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time.

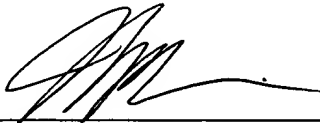
It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all of the pending claims, which are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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